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Consumer Price Index, West Region — December 2021

Area prices were up 0.4 percent over the past month, up 7.1 percent from a year ago

Prices in the West Region, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), increased 0.4 percent in December, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A](#).) The December increase was influenced by higher prices for shelter, new and used motor vehicles, and household furnishings and operations. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U advanced 7.1 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) Food prices increased 6.4 percent. Energy prices jumped 31.2 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy increased 5.5 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, West region, December 2018–December 2021

| Month | All items | All items less food and energy |
|---------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Dec 2018..... | 3.1 | 2.9 |
| Jan 2019..... | 2.7 | 2.9 |
| Feb 2019..... | 2.4 | 2.7 |
| Mar 2019..... | 2.4 | 2.7 |
| Apr 2019..... | 2.9 | 2.9 |
| May 2019..... | 2.9 | 2.8 |
| Jun 2019..... | 2.7 | 2.9 |
| Jul 2019..... | 2.7 | 2.9 |
| Aug 2019..... | 2.6 | 3.1 |
| Sep 2019..... | 2.6 | 3.0 |
| Oct 2019..... | 2.8 | 2.8 |
| Nov 2019..... | 2.8 | 2.8 |
| Dec 2019..... | 2.8 | 2.8 |
| Jan 2020..... | 2.9 | 2.8 |
| Feb 2020..... | 3.1 | 2.9 |
| Mar 2020..... | 2.5 | 2.5 |
| Apr 2020..... | 1.3 | 2.1 |
| May 2020..... | 0.8 | 1.9 |
| Jun 2020..... | 1.2 | 1.7 |
| Jul 2020..... | 1.7 | 2.0 |
| Aug 2020..... | 1.9 | 1.9 |
| Sep 2020..... | 1.6 | 1.6 |
| Oct 2020..... | 1.2 | 1.6 |
| Nov 2020..... | 1.4 | 1.8 |
| Dec 2020..... | 1.5 | 1.5 |
| Jan 2021..... | 1.4 | 1.3 |

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, West region, December 2018–December 2021 - Continued

| Month | All items | All items less food and energy |
|----------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Feb 2021 | 1.6 | 1.2 |
| Mar 2021 | 2.4 | 1.5 |
| Apr 2021 | 3.9 | 2.7 |
| May 2021 | 4.7 | 3.3 |
| Jun 2021 | 5.1 | 4.1 |
| Jul 2021 | 5.2 | 3.9 |
| Aug 2021 | 5.0 | 3.8 |
| Sep 2021 | 5.3 | 4.0 |
| Oct 2021 | 6.0 | 4.5 |
| Nov 2021 | 6.5 | 4.8 |
| Dec 2021 | 7.1 | 5.5 |

Food

Food prices rose 0.4 percent for the month of December. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food at home crept up 0.2 percent. All sub-categories advanced 1.0 percent or less, except for prices for meats, poultry, fish, and eggs which declined 0.9 percent. Prices for food away from home advanced 0.5 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices increased 6.4 percent. Food at home advanced 7.1 percent. Prices ranged from no change for dairy and related products to a 14.3 percent increase for meats, poultry, fish, and eggs. Since a year ago, and prices for food away from home increased 5.5 percent.

Energy

The energy index inched down 0.1 percent over the month. The decrease was mainly due to lower prices for gasoline (-0.3 percent). Prices for natural gas service declined 0.7 percent, but prices for electricity increased for the same period (0.5 percent).

Energy prices jumped 31.2 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (47.7 percent). Prices paid for natural gas service advanced 20.0 percent, and prices for electricity rose 9.4 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy advanced 0.4 percent in December. Higher prices for new and used motor vehicles (1.8 percent), household furnishings and operations (1.8 percent), and shelter (0.5 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for apparel (-1.3 percent) and recreation (-0.6 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 5.5 percent. Components contributing to the increase included new and used motor vehicles (19.6 percent), household furnishings and operations (7.0 percent), and shelter (4.5 percent).

Table A. West region CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

| Month | 2017 | | 2018 | | 2019 | | 2020 | | 2021 | |
|----------------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|
| | 1-month | 12-month | 1-month | 12-month | 1-month | 12-month | 1-month | 12-month | 1-month | 12-month |
| January | 0.5 | 2.5 | 0.5 | 3.1 | 0.2 | 2.7 | 0.3 | 2.9 | 0.2 | 1.4 |
| February | 0.6 | 3.0 | 0.5 | 3.1 | 0.2 | 2.4 | 0.4 | 3.1 | 0.5 | 1.6 |
| March | 0.3 | 3.1 | 0.4 | 3.2 | 0.4 | 2.4 | -0.2 | 2.5 | 0.7 | 2.4 |
| April | 0.3 | 2.9 | 0.4 | 3.2 | 0.8 | 2.9 | -0.4 | 1.3 | 1.0 | 3.9 |
| May | 0.2 | 2.6 | 0.5 | 3.5 | 0.5 | 2.9 | 0.1 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 4.7 |
| June | 0.0 | 2.5 | 0.2 | 3.6 | 0.0 | 2.7 | 0.4 | 1.2 | 0.9 | 5.1 |
| July | 0.1 | 2.5 | 0.1 | 3.6 | 0.0 | 2.7 | 0.5 | 1.7 | 0.6 | 5.2 |

Table A. West region CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted - Continued

| Month | 2017 | | 2018 | | 2019 | | 2020 | | 2021 | |
|-----------------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|
| | 1-month | 12-month | 1-month | 12-month | 1-month | 12-month | 1-month | 12-month | 1-month | 12-month |
| August | 0.2 | 2.7 | 0.2 | 3.6 | 0.1 | 2.6 | 0.3 | 1.9 | 0.2 | 5.0 |
| September | 0.5 | 2.9 | 0.3 | 3.4 | 0.3 | 2.6 | 0.0 | 1.6 | 0.2 | 5.3 |
| October | 0.3 | 2.9 | 0.4 | 3.5 | 0.5 | 2.8 | 0.2 | 1.2 | 0.8 | 6.0 |
| November | 0.0 | 3.1 | -0.2 | 3.3 | -0.1 | 2.8 | 0.0 | 1.4 | 0.5 | 6.5 |
| December | 0.1 | 3.1 | -0.2 | 3.1 | -0.2 | 2.8 | -0.1 | 1.5 | 0.4 | 7.1 |

The January 2022 Consumer Price Index for the West Region is scheduled to be released on February 10, 2022.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on December 2021 Consumer Price Index Data

Data collection by personal visit for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) program has been suspended almost entirely since March 16, 2020. When possible, data normally collected by personal visit were collected either online or by phone. Additionally, data collection in December was affected by the temporary closing or limited operations of certain types of establishments. These factors resulted in an increase in the number of prices considered temporarily unavailable and imputed.

While the CPI program attempted to collect as much data as possible, many indexes are based on smaller amounts of collected prices than usual, and a small number of indexes that are normally published were not published this month.

For each month from March 2020 to December 2021, BLS has published a summary of the impact of the pandemic on the Consumer Price Index news release and data. The impact summary for December is available at www.bls.gov/covid19/consumer-price-index-covid19-impacts-december-2021.htm. Beginning with publication of January 2022 data in February 2022, this month-specific impact summary will be discontinued. However, information related to the impact of the pandemic will continue to be available at www.bls.gov/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-consumer-price-index.htm.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measures of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 93 percent of the total U.S. population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 29 percent of the total U.S. population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 75 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately

22,000 retail establishments—department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.
















































The index measures price changes from a designated reference date; for most of the CPI-U the reference base is 1982-84 equals 100. An increase of 7 percent from the reference base, for example, is shown as 107.000. Alternatively, that relationship can also be expressed as the price of a base period market basket of goods and services rising from \$100 to \$107. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the CPI section of the BLS Handbook of Methods available on the internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cpi/.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The West Region covered in this release is comprised of the following thirteen states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

























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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

| Item and Group | Indexes | | | | Percent change from- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | Historical data | Oct. 2021 | Nov. 2021 | Dec. 2021 | Dec. 2020 | Oct. 2021 | Nov. 2021 |
| Expenditure category | | | | | | | |
| All Items..... |  | 293.397 | 294.986 | 296.102 | 7.1 | 0.9 | 0.4 |
| All items (December 1977=100)..... |  | 474.260 | 476.829 | 478.633 | | | |
| Food and beverages |  | 295.381 | 297.051 | 298.185 | 6.1 | 0.9 | 0.4 |
| Food |  | 296.297 | 298.117 | 299.237 | 6.4 | 1.0 | 0.4 |
| Food at home |  | 279.212 | 281.412 | 282.075 | 7.1 | 1.0 | 0.2 |
| Cereals and bakery products |  | 280.324 | 281.699 | 281.894 | 4.6 | 0.6 | 0.1 |
| Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs..... |  | 317.661 | 322.231 | 319.364 | 14.3 | 0.5 | -0.9 |
| Dairy and related products |  | 249.035 | 246.994 | 249.507 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 1.0 |
| Fruits and vegetables |  | 357.199 | 360.627 | 363.171 | 5.0 | 1.7 | 0.7 |
| Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials |  | 198.908 | 199.121 | 199.135 | 5.5 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| Other food at home |  | 231.812 | 234.472 | 236.401 | 7.4 | 2.0 | 0.8 |
| Food away from home..... |  | 318.338 | 319.627 | 321.369 | 5.5 | 1.0 | 0.5 |
| Alcoholic beverages |  | 280.104 | 279.885 | 281.170 | 3.1 | 0.4 | 0.5 |
| Housing |  | 321.344 | 322.805 | 324.675 | 5.2 | 1.0 | 0.6 |
| Shelter |  | 368.754 | 370.626 | 372.354 | 4.5 | 1.0 | 0.5 |
| Rent of primary residence(1)..... |  | 390.734 | 392.999 | 394.665 | 3.4 | 1.0 | 0.4 |
| Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)(2)..... |  | 388.374 | 390.390 | 392.230 | 4.2 | 1.0 | 0.5 |
| Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2) |  | 388.255 | 390.255 | 392.075 | 4.1 | 1.0 | 0.5 |
| Fuels and utilities..... |  | 349.302 | 348.342 | 348.975 | 9.5 | -0.1 | 0.2 |
| Household energy |  | 299.642 | 299.076 | 299.994 | 12.0 | 0.1 | 0.3 |
| Energy services(1) |  | 301.509 | 300.657 | 301.352 | 11.7 | -0.1 | 0.2 |
| Electricity(1)..... |  | 330.360 | 327.921 | 329.569 | 9.4 | -0.2 | 0.5 |
| Utility (piped) gas service(1)..... |  | 252.691 | 255.836 | 254.144 | 20.0 | 0.6 | -0.7 |
| Household furnishings and operations |  | 144.246 | 145.239 | 147.843 | 7.0 | 2.5 | 1.8 |
| Apparel |  | 120.233 | 118.244 | 116.739 | 6.7 | -2.9 | -1.3 |
| Transportation |  | 249.555 | 253.907 | 256.142 | 21.0 | 2.6 | 0.9 |
| Private transportation |  | 249.813 | 253.876 | 256.169 | 22.3 | 2.5 | 0.9 |
| New and used motor vehicles(3)..... |  | 120.070 | 121.912 | 124.076 | 19.6 | 3.3 | 1.8 |
| New vehicles |  | 163.336 | 164.674 | 166.822 | 10.1 | 2.1 | 1.3 |
| New cars and trucks(3)(4) |  | 113.465 | 114.385 | 115.904 | 10.2 | 2.1 | 1.3 |
| New cars(4) |  | 160.574 | | 165.345 | 10.4 | 3.0 | |
| Used cars and trucks..... |  | 186.515 | 191.477 | 198.068 | 36.6 | 6.2 | 3.4 |
| Motor fuel |  | 323.637 | 332.424 | 331.282 | 47.7 | 2.4 | -0.3 |
| Gasoline (all types)..... |  | 322.622 | 331.224 | 330.078 | 47.7 | 2.3 | -0.3 |
| Gasoline, unleaded regular(4)..... |  | 319.375 | 328.015 | 326.757 | 48.8 | 2.3 | -0.4 |
| Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5)..... |  | 307.761 | 315.751 | 315.000 | 44.4 | 2.4 | -0.2 |
| Gasoline, unleaded premium(4)..... |  | 315.063 | 323.016 | 322.329 | 43.4 | 2.3 | -0.2 |
| Motor vehicle insurance(6) |  | 818.567 | 825.555 | 836.233 | 5.0 | 2.2 | 1.3 |
| Medical Care |  | 546.468 | 549.444 | 548.403 | 2.0 | 0.4 | -0.2 |
| Medical care commodities..... |  | 417.921 | 422.701 | 424.650 | 0.9 | 1.6 | 0.5 |
| Medical care services..... |  | 586.240 | 588.643 | 586.660 | 2.3 | 0.1 | -0.3 |
| Professional services |  | 379.051 | 379.950 | 379.608 | 4.1 | 0.1 | -0.1 |
| Recreation(3)..... |  | 122.423 | 122.099 | 121.371 | 4.1 | -0.9 | -0.6 |
| Education and communication(3)..... |  | 142.045 | 141.856 | 141.473 | 0.1 | -0.4 | -0.3 |
| Tuition, other school fees, and child care(6) .. |  | 1,565.035 | 1,565.734 | 1,561.607 | 3.1 | -0.2 | -0.3 |
| Other goods and services |  | 483.228 | 483.489 | 486.793 | 5.5 | 0.7 | 0.7 |
| Commodity and Service Group | | | | | | | |
| All Items..... |  | 293.397 | 294.986 | 296.102 | 7.1 | 0.9 | 0.4 |

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

| Item and Group | Indexes | | | | Percent change from- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | Historical data | Oct. 2021 | Nov. 2021 | Dec. 2021 | Dec. 2020 | Oct. 2021 | Nov. 2021 |
| Commodities |  | 209.871 | 211.588 | 212.825 | 11.7 | 1.4 | 0.6 |
| Commodities less food & beverages..... |  | 167.274 | 168.924 | 170.139 | 15.8 | 1.7 | 0.7 |
| Nondurables less food & beverages |  | 215.434 | 216.992 | 216.638 | 16.7 | 0.6 | -0.2 |
| Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel |  | 282.201 | 286.188 | 286.615 | 19.9 | 1.6 | 0.1 |
| Durables |  | 122.463 | 124.016 | 126.074 | 14.8 | 2.9 | 1.7 |
| Services..... |  | 369.925 | 371.298 | 372.228 | 4.3 | 0.6 | 0.3 |
| Rent of shelter(2)..... |  | 392.847 | 394.857 | 396.705 | 4.6 | 1.0 | 0.5 |
| Transportation services |  | 317.998 | 321.457 | 320.436 | 5.3 | 0.8 | -0.3 |
| Other services |  | 379.554 | 378.727 | 378.398 | 2.6 | -0.3 | -0.1 |
| Special aggregate indexes: | | | | | | | |
| All items less medical care |  | 281.786 | 283.311 | 284.514 | 7.5 | 1.0 | 0.4 |
| All items less food |  | 293.075 | 294.627 | 295.743 | 7.2 | 0.9 | 0.4 |
| All items less shelter..... |  | 263.812 | 265.290 | 266.166 | 8.5 | 0.9 | 0.3 |
| Commodities less food |  | 171.614 | 173.224 | 174.451 | 15.2 | 1.7 | 0.7 |
| Nondurables |  | 255.624 | 257.246 | 257.616 | 10.5 | 0.8 | 0.1 |
| Nondurables less food..... |  | 220.430 | 221.877 | 221.630 | 15.5 | 0.5 | -0.1 |
| Nondurables less food and apparel..... |  | 281.599 | 285.135 | 285.653 | 17.9 | 1.4 | 0.2 |
| Services less rent of shelter(2)..... |  | 382.183 | 382.901 | 382.770 | 4.0 | 0.2 | 0.0 |
| Services less medical care services..... |  | 354.816 | 356.118 | 357.241 | 4.6 | 0.7 | 0.3 |
| Energy |  | 318.786 | 323.732 | 323.449 | 31.2 | 1.5 | -0.1 |
| All items less energy |  | 294.146 | 295.520 | 296.741 | 5.6 | 0.9 | 0.4 |
| All items less food and energy |  | 294.588 | 295.887 | 297.129 | 5.5 | 0.9 | 0.4 |
| Commodities less food and energy commodities |  | 155.102 | 155.971 | 157.409 | 10.1 | 1.5 | 0.9 |
| Energy commodities..... |  | 329.472 | 338.473 | 337.504 | 47.3 | 2.4 | -0.3 |
| Services less energy services |  | 375.333 | 376.837 | 377.785 | 4.0 | 0.7 | 0.3 |

Footnotes

(1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(2) Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.

(3) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

(6) Indexes on a December 1977=100 base.

- Data not available

Regions defined as the four Census regions. West includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date. Data not seasonally adjusted.